

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-11, 13, 18, and 19 are pending. Claims 1, 8, and 18 have been amended and claims 7, 12, 14-17, and 20 have been canceled.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

The Examiner maintained the rejection of claims 1-6, 8-11, 13, 18, and 19 under 35 USC § 103(a) for being obvious in view of a combination formed between the Kim and Hashimoto references. The Examiner indicated his reason for maintaining the rejection on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action.

Here, the Examiner explained that the Kim patent discloses a DVD that stores a plurality of titles with playback times, and that the Hashimoto publication discloses identifying a data group on a DVD having the longest playback time. Based on these disclosures, the Examiner indicated one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine Kim and Hashimoto to produce a method which selects and plays a title having the longest playback time. Applicants submit that such a method is not formed by a Kim-Hashimoto combination.

While the Kim patent discloses a DVD containing a plurality of titles with different playback times, Kim does not teach or suggest (1) determining which title has a longest playback time and then (3) selecting and forcibly reproducing that title in response to a user command.

The Hashimoto publication discloses a DVD having a plurality of sections. However, only one of those sections corresponds to a video program, e.g., a story portion. The other portions correspond to control data and menu data. Thus, the Hashimoto DVD stores only one

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video program. In order to avoid playing the menu or control data, the Hashimoto further determines which section has a longest data length. The section having the longest data length is therefore presumed to be the story portion, and this portion is played when a user presses a play button. See Paragraphs [106] and [107].

While the Hashimoto method determines which section of a DVD has a longest data length, Hashimoto does not teach or suggest determining which of a plurality of titles corresponding to a respectively plurality of video programs stored on a DVD has a longest data length or playback time. This feature is missing from both the Kim and Hashimoto references.

To make these differences even more evident, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the selecting and reproducing step includes: (1) determining a first title corresponding to a first video program having a first playback time; (2) determining a second title corresponding to a second video program having a second playback time; (3) comparing the first and second playback times; and (4) determining that the first title that corresponds to the first video program stored on said disc has a longest playback time based on the comparison. These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claim 1 further recites selecting and forcibly reproducing the first video program corresponding to the first title with the longest playback time, said determining and selecting automatically performed in response to a user command to reproduce information from said optical disc. These features are also not taught or suggested when taken in combination with the features added by amendment to claim 1.

Based on these differences, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable. Claims 8 and 18 recite features similar to those which patentably distinguish claim 1 from a Kim-Hashimoto combination. Furtherance of these and their dependent claims to allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and timely allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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